

BACKGROUNDER NO. 1-0261
SPLANE/MIAMI

FEBRUARY 27, 1976

INTERNATIONAL HYDROGEN CONFERENCE

INTRO: NEARLY SEVEN HUNDRED SCIENTISTS FROM THIRTY COUNTRIES ARE GATHERING IN MIAMI BEACH FOR THE FIRST WORLD HYDROGEN ENERGY CONFERENCE THAT OPENS MONDAY. VOA CORRESPONDENT RUSSELL SPLANE HAS A REPORT:

TEXT: IT'S NOT THE FIRST HYDROGEN ENERGY CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN THE UNITED STATES, BUT IT'S THE FIRST WITH INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION. THE THREE-DAY MEETING IS BEING PRESENTED BY THE RECENTLY FORMED INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR HYDROGEN ENERGY, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CLEAN ENERGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI. THE THEME OF THE CONFERENCE IS "PROGRESS IN WORLD HYDROGEN ENERGY PROJECTS AND PLANNING."

ABOUT ONE HUNDRED FIFTY TECHNICAL PAPERS ARE SCHEDULED FOR PRESENTATION DEALING WITH VARIOUS ASPECTS OF MAN'S SEARCH FOR NEW SOURCES OF ENERGY THAT WOULD END THE WORLD'S DEPENDENCE ON OIL AND OTHER FOSSIL FUELS. THE PAPERS WILL BE PRESENTED BY LEADING SCIENTISTS FROM SUCH COUNTRIES AS JAPAN, ITALY, GERMANY, FRANCE, ENGLAND, BELGIUM, AUSTRIA, SWITZERLAND, TURKEY, ISRAEL, AUSTRALIA, THE NETHERLANDS AND THE UNITED STATES. ALSO AT LEAST FOUR SCIENTISTS FROM THE SOVIET UNION ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE.

ACCORDING TO DOCTOR NEJAT VEZIROGLU OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI--CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN--THE THREE-DAY MEETING WILL BE THE LARGEST AND MOST COMPREHENSIVE SCIENTIFIC GATHERING EVER HELD TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE USES OF HYDROGEN AS AN ENERGY CARRIER. HYDROGEN, HE POINTED OUT HAS THE POTENTIAL AS A CLEAN, INEXHAUSTIBLE SYNTHETIC FUEL.

WITH A HYDROGEN ENERGY SYSTEM, HE SAID, WE COULD LOOK FORWARD TO A TIME OF NO AIR POLLUTION, NO SHORTAGE OF FUEL AND NO DEPLETION OF THE WORLD'S RESOURCES.

(OPT) LISTED AMONG THE SPONSORS OF THE CONFERENCE ARE THE U.S. ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION, AND THE SCHOOL OF CONTINUING STUDIES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI.

(END OPT) (SIGNED)

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